

Cambria Road Bridge
Spanning the West Branch of the St. Joseph River
on Cambria Road
Woodbridge Township
Hillsdale County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-43

HAER
MICH
30-WOODB.V.
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

Cambria Road Bridge

HAER No. MI-43

Location: Spanning the West Branch of the St. Joseph River on Cambria Road in Sections 28 and 29, Township 8 South, Range 3 West, Vicinity of the Village of Camden, Woodbridge Township, Hillsdale County, Michigan

UTM: 16.693330.462635

Quad: Reading

Date of Construction: 1899

Present Owner: Hillsdale County Road Commission

Present Use: Currently closed to vehicular traffic

Significance: The Cambria Road Bridge is the only known surviving example of a bridge built by an Ohio company of this era in Michigan.

Project Information: This documentation was undertaken in July 1989 in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement by the Gratiot County Road Commission as a mitigative measure prior to replacement of the bridge.

Stanley L. Clingerman
Engineer
Hillsdale County Road Commission
Hillsdale, Michigan

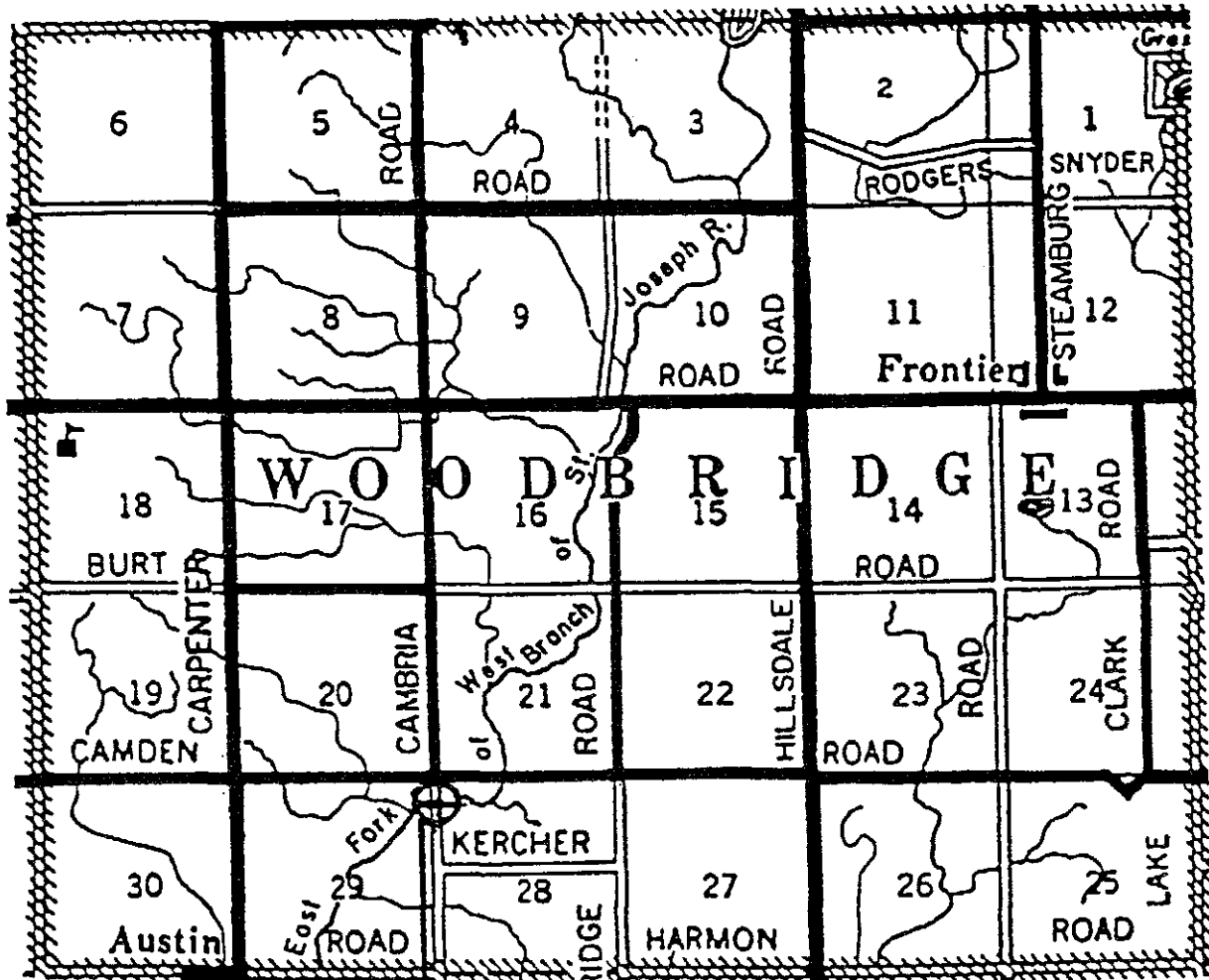
The Cambria Road Bridge is a single span steel pratt pony truss structure with riveted connections. The bridge was built in 1899 by the New Columbus Company of Columbus, Ohio, for Woodbridge Township, Hillsdale County, Michigan. The New Columbus Bridge Company was founded in 1894 and operated until 1900. The company was one of many small bridge companies that thrived in the late nineteenth century. It specialized in construction of small truss bridges throughout the central Ohio area.

The Cambria Road Bridge was originally purchased by Woodbridge Township in 1899. The name of J. M. McDougal appears on a broken plaque on the north side of the bridge. All records and documentation of the bridge have been lost.

The bridge is a single span steel pony truss structure with riveted connections. It consists of a Pratt truss span 40' 8" in length, 15' 6" in width, a 4" thick wooden plank deck supported on nine 6" steel I-beams at 2'0" centers, two 12" transverse steel floor beams spaced at 13' 2" centers. The bridge is founded on concrete abutments.

Cambria Road is a rural collector road, servicing agricultural interests in southwestern Hillsdale County. The Cambria Road Bridge crosses the east fork of the West Branch of the St. Joseph River, approximately 1/8 mile south of the intersection of Cambria and Camden roads. The river is skewed to the left of the existing roadway at an angle of 17 degrees.

LOCATION MAP



PROJECT LOCATION
SECTIONS 28/29
T. 8 S., R. 3 W.
WOODBIDGE TOWNSHIP